

The 2021 University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival Final Information

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will make critical **MidFest** announcements using our website: bands.uga.edu/midfest.

BALANCE DUE: Fees for all students should be paid before arrival. While payments will be accepted at check-in, those who have paid their entire balance before arrival will enjoy a quicker and easier check-in.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: We ask that each student bring their own performance mask and bell cover. UGA strongly encourages wearing PPE at all times while inside.

STUDENTS SHOULD BRING:

- Instrument
- All necessary accessories (reeds, mouthpieces, neck straps)
- Concert Attire (dress nice – students can wear the same clothes to rehearsal and final concert)
- **Folding music stand with his/her name clearly marked.**
- Pencils
- *Percussionists should bring sticks and mallets only.*

ARRIVAL: Directors and students should arrive at the School of Music on Saturday, December 11th between 8:00 & 8:45 AM. Directions will be available at the end of this document and at the **MidFest** website.

Car and van parking will be available at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Deck near the School of Music. Students arriving by bus or any other vehicles (**taller than 6' 8"**) that cannot be parked in the parking deck must be dropped off at the Performing Arts Center loop. Buses can park in other lots.

CHECK-IN: Check-in will take place in room 110 on the first floor of the School of Music. If the group has not already paid, the adult who is checking the group in should have a check (payable to UGA Bands) or credit card for any remaining balance.

Please note that **all students from a school must check in together**. If a director will not be present, a head chaperone must be assigned. Please send head chaperone phone number and email to Rob Akridge (rakridge@uga.edu). That person will check in all students from that school. Any student who arrives at check-in without the rest of their school will kindly be asked to wait to check in until the remainder of the students from the school arrive. **You may NOT substitute students from another school when checking in!**

"NO-SHOWS": School representatives who have registered students for **MidFest** and subsequently cannot attend, for whatever reason, should contact our office immediately by email for a refund. "No shows" preclude others from attending. "No shows" will be billed for outstanding fees and will not be permitted to register or attend **MidFest** in the future until all fees have been paid. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

CANCELLATIONS: Canceling after the deadline will forfeit the student's festival payment.

WEATHER EVENT: No one can predict poor weather however, due to administration fees, we are only able to refund half of the registration fees. Again, thank you for your understanding.

CAR/VAN PARKING: As at many busy university campuses and college towns, parking in Athens and at UGA is rare and expensive. *Cars dropping off students will be guided to the parking lot on the right. BUSES ONLY will be allowed to drop off students in the loop.*

BUS PARKING: We appreciate that bus transportation is convenient for schools with many attendees. However, our parking situation makes the use of buses inconvenient. **Directors are strongly encouraged to use car and light van transportation if at all possible.** Buses are permitted to drop students at the turnaround between the Performing Arts Center and School of Music, which is located in Lot E11 on River Road. ***Please make sure to have a bus driver other than the band director so the director can register students upon arrival.***

AUDITION RESULTS: Results will be enclosed in the director packet at registration.

FEATURED BAND CONCERTS: The featured band concerts on Thursday and Friday nights will be held in Hodgson Hall at the UGA Performing Arts Center. Students, directors, and chaperones not rehearsing in the Performing Arts Center should all enter the hall through the glass doors of the main lobby. Please note that instruments and instrument cases are not allowed in the seating areas or lobby of the Performing Arts Center under any circumstances.

Admission will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis. The maximum in the hall this year will be 600 people.

LODGING: Lodging is not required this year. As indicated in the initial **MidFest** announcement, housing is the responsibility of the directors and chaperones. Several Athens hotel properties are listed in the brochure online. Please consider the festival schedule when planning your hotel check-in and check-out.

DINING: We will provide a catered pizza lunch to each rehearsal site.

FINAL CONCERTS: Call times for Saturday's final concerts begin at 3:15pm. Concerts take place from 3:45pm to 6:00pm in Hodgson Concert Hall at the Performing Arts Center.

- For the final concert, nice clothes for the students is preferred. Students can wear the same clothes for rehearsal and the final concert.
- Students may attend the concerts of other festival bands as their schedule and space in Hodgson Hall allow. However, instruments and instrument cases are not allowed in Hodgson Hall or the Performing Arts Center lobby. Because of the size of the festival and limited seating availability in Hodgson Hall, parents are asked to attend only those concerts in which their children are performing.

FESTIVAL RULES: We want everyone who attends **MidFest** to have an enjoyable educational experience. To that end, the following rules will apply throughout the festival, on campus, and at the Classic Center. Please share these with all who will attend:

- Students may not smoke, drink, or be under the influence of drugs.
- Students must respect the property of festival students, staff, the University of Georgia, and the Classic Center.
 - Instruments and instrument cases may not be brought into the Performing Arts Center lobby or seating area.
 - Students must dispose of trash appropriately in all facilities, including restrooms.
 - Students will sit appropriately during events and avoid placing feet on walls, seats, or stage from the seating area.
 - Students will not bring food or drink into classroom, rehearsal, or performance areas.
- Students will treat others with respect, will use appropriate language, and will follow the instructions of festival staff.
- All concert attendees will silence mobile phones during attendance at all festival events.
- Students will arrive on-time to all festival events, and will remain attentive throughout. Students may not leave festival events unless they are under the supervision of a director or chaperone from their school.

SCHEDULE: A detailed schedule will be updated on the **MidFest** website as it develops. You will receive a final copy at check-in.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

• The University of Georgia Bands
250 River Road
Athens, Georgia 30602-7287
(706) 542-1505

• Athens-Clarke County Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency (706) 613-3888

• The University of Georgia Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency (706) 542-2200

• Classic Center
300 N. Thomas Street
Athens, Georgia 30601
(706) 208-0900

• St. Mary's Health Care System
1230 Baxter Street
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 389-3000

• Athens Regional Medical Center
1199 Prince Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 475-7000

USEFUL WEB SITES:

• The University of Georgia Bands
bands.uga.edu/bands/midfest
Contains important **MidFest** information

• The University of Georgia
uga.edu

• Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau
visitathensga.com

• Athens Downtown Development Authority
downtownathensga.com

TO CHECK-IN, HODGSON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

TRAVELING SOUTH TO ATHENS: Follow U.S. 29, GA 106, U.S.441, or U.S. 129 South to Athens. Each Joins GA 10 Loop (Athens Perimeter). Exit at College Station Road (Exit #7) and turn right. Turn right at the first light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue up hill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING NORTH TO ATHENS: Follow Highway 441 / 129 North to Athens. Each joins GA 10 Loop (Athens Perimeter). Take Loop 10 eastbound (Outer). Exit at College Station Road (Exit #7) and turn left. Turn right at the second light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue up hill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING EAST TO ATHENS: Travel east on U.S. 78 or GA 316 to Athens. If traveling on U.S. 78, exit onto GA 316 East. Turn right onto the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10) traveling East (There is a sign for the University of Georgia/Athens By-Pass at the junction of GA 316 and the 10 Loop). After approximately five miles on the Perimeter, exit onto College Station Road (Exit #7). Take a left onto College Station Road. Turn right at the second light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue uphill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING WEST TO ATHENS: Take U.S. 78 West to Athens. In Athens, travel under the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10) then take a left at the next traffic light onto the Perimeter going westbound. Exit the Perimeter at the next exit, which is College Station Road (Exit #7). Turn right onto College Station Road. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first light.